

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A gas barrier coating material comprising polyvinyl alcohol (A), an ethylene-maleic acid copolymer (B), and a metal compound (D), wherein a ratio (A)/(B) between the polyvinyl alcohol (A) and the ethylene-maleic acid copolymer (B) falls within a range from (A)/(B) = 50/50 to 10/90 (weight ratio), the metal compound (D) comprises at least one compound selected from a group consisting of hydroxides, oxides, halides, carbonates, sulfates, nitrates, sulfites, and acetates of bivalent or higher metals selected from a group consisting of Mg, Ca, Al, Fe, Co, Ni, and Cu, and a quantity of the metal compound (D), expressed as an equivalent value relative to carboxyl groups within the ethylene-maleic acid copolymer (B), is within a range from 0.05 to 30%.

2. (Original) The gas barrier coating material according to claim 1, wherein the metal compound (D) is at least one compound selected from a group consisting of hydroxides and oxides of bivalent or higher metals selected from a group consisting of Mg, Ca, Al, Fe, Co, Ni, and Cu.

3. (Currently Amended) The gas barrier coating material according to ~~either one of claim 1 and~~ claim 2, wherein the metal compound (D) is at least one compound selected from a group consisting of Mg hydroxide, Mg oxide, Ca hydroxide, and Ca oxide.
4. (Currently Amended) The gas barrier coating material ~~according to any one of claim 1 through claim 3,~~ wherein the metal compound (D) is capable of reacting with a hydroxyl group or a carboxyl group.
5. (Currently Amended) The gas barrier coating material according to ~~any one of claim 1 through claim 4,~~ wherein a quantity of the metal compound (D), expressed as an equivalent value relative to carboxyl groups within the ethylene-maleic acid copolymer (B), is within a range from 0.05 to 12.5%.
6. (Currently Amended) A gas barrier laminate, comprising a plastic substrate, and a gas barrier layer formed from the gas barrier coating material according to ~~any one of claim 1 through claim 5,~~ wherein the gas barrier layer is laminated on top of the plastic substrate, either directly, or with an undercoat layer disposed therebetween.

7. (New) The gas barrier coating material according to claim 3, wherein a quantity of the metal compound (D), expressed as an equivalent value relative to carboxyl groups within the ethylene-maleic acid copolymer (B), is within a range from 0.05 to 12.5%.